



Nursing Home and Assisted Living Artists Honored in 2021 Annual Calendar

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ALBANY, NY – Art is a powerful medium of expression. Particularly for the aging, it can present an opportunity to open up to outsiders what may be a lifetime of inspirational images never before shared. Thirteen artists who happen to be residents of New York State skilled nursing and assisted living facilities translated visions from their hearts and minds into winning entries of a juried art contest, now featured in a 2021 calendar, “Art from the Heart.”

The annual calendar is the result of an art contest launched in 2004 by the Foundation for Quality Care, Inc., the New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHEA) and the New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSCAL). With the recent restrictions on skilled nursing and assisted living facilities due to COVID-19, the Foundation for Quality Care moved this year’s Art from the Heart Program online. Residents of more than 400 NYSHFA/NYSCAL member skilled nursing and assisted living facilities around the state were invited to submit photographs of their artwork online.

The response was overwhelming, with more than 85 pieces submitted from across New York state. The judges included local artists and representatives from the New York State Museum in Albany.

Ranging in age from 57 to 96, the different backgrounds of the artists who submitted work creates a unique blend of artistic styles. Some are professional artists who have been drawing and painting their entire lives, while others discovered their talents after moving into a long term care facility where they began taking art classes.

“Our residents have shared such rich stories through their artwork,” said Jackie Pappalardi, RN, BSN, executive director of the Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. “The ‘Art from the Heart’ calendar provides a forum for these talented and interesting individuals to shine.”

Proceeds from the “Art from the Heart” calendar will benefit the Foundation for Quality Care as it continues its work to improve the quality of care for those living in New York State skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. Additional calendar copies may be ordered via the NYSHFA/NYSCAL website at www.nyshfa-nyscal.org.

*****Photos of Artwork and Artists Available*****

This Year's "Art from the Heart" Art Contest Winners

- **Patricia Arena**, The Shore Winds Nursing & Rehabilitation, Rochester, NY
- **Mario Fernandez**, River Ridge Living Center, Amsterdam, NY
- **Joan Franks**, Somerset Gardens, Plainview., NY
- **Joan French**, Seneca Nursing and Rehab Center, Waterloo, NY
- **Donna Grant**, Holliswood Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare, Hollis, NY
- **David Gritman**, NYS Veterans Home At Oxford, Oxford, NY
- **Bruce Hilliard**, Shaker Place Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, Albany, NY
- **Mary Karen Hobert**, NYS Veterans Home At Oxford, Oxford, NY
- **Debbie Janish**, ElderWood Assisted Living at Hamburg, Hamburg, NY
- **Henry Macchiaroli**, Kings Harbor Multicare Center, Bronx, NY
- **Carolyn Oakley**, ElderWood at Waverly, Waverly, NY
- **Cheri Talmadge**, Betsy Ross Nursing & Rehab. Center, Rome, NY
- **Melvin Torres Jimenez**, Bedford Center for Nursing & Rehab, Brooklyn, NY

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The Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. is a non-profit educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Health Facilities Association/New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSHFA/NYSCAL), a statewide membership organization of more than 400 licensed skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. The membership is diversified and represents individual and multi-facility operations of proprietary, voluntary and government sponsorship. Members take care of more than 67,000 ill, aged and infirm New Yorkers. Members of NYSHFA/NYSCAL are dedicated to the highest standards of care and to the quality of life of all residents.

- 30 -